
EIGHTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Church of the Covenant,

PHILADELPHIA.



EIGHTH

ANNUAL PASTORAL REPORT

OF THE

Church of the Covenant,

PHILADELPHIA,

ADDRESSED TO THE CONGREGATION

MARCH 1, 1865.


BY

THE RECTOR.

PHILADELPHIA :

H. B. ASHMEAD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
Nos. 1102 AND 1104 SANSOM STREET.

1865.

 Those who wish to possess a complete History of the Church of the Covenant, may do so by preserving these Annual Reports. The pages are printed continuously, so that when sufficient are published they may be bound together and form a convenient volume.

VESTRY.

The following named persons compose the Vestry of the Church of the Covenant, elected on Easter Monday, April 17, 1865.

JOHN TANGUY, }
SAMUEL SIMES, } *Wardens.*

JAMES A. KIRKPATRICK,
Secretary.

ALEXANDER KIRKPATRICK,
Treasurer of Benevolent Fund.

GEORGE BOYD,
PAUL G. OLIVER,
THOMAS H. POWERS,
ROBERT REED,
JOHN P. RHOADS,
CHARLES J. ROBERTS,
CHARLES G. SOWER,
ANDREW WHEELER.

[illegible]

Eighth Annual Pastoral Report.

PHILADELPHIA, *March*, 1865.

BELOVED—

The date of this Report indicates for us the closing of another season of precious privilege and golden opportunity,—tells of another year passed, so far as earth is concerned, forever beyond recall,—yet to be met again inevitably in its results before the judgment bar of Heaven.

Has it been wasted? have its warnings been rejected? has its proclamation of a Saviour's love been despised?—then it is freighted with bitter memories and a deep condemnation.

Has it been improved? has it been lived in view of that coming Assize which is to try every man's work? has it been given to God—spent for Christ?—then though wretchedly

imperfect in its measure of attainment—for *Jesus' sake* it is acceptable to the Great Judge!

It behooves us as a congregation in the survey of the year now closed, to bless the Supreme Disposer of events, that through all the excitement and depression incident to the terrible struggle by which our nation has been convulsed we have been permitted to offer Him a worship outwardly decorous in its performance and uninterrupted in its continuance,—that Lord's Day after Lord's Day—without a single intermission, the glorious tidings of salvation through the Crucified, have been heard within the walls of our loved church.

Only one shadow has rested upon us as a corporate people—the removal, by death, of our venerable friend and father, for such we all esteemed him, Joseph Whetham, Esq.

One of the founders of this church—thoroughly identified with all its interests—holding very dear that simple and unfaltering proclamation of God's whole truth—whether palatable or displeasing, for which its first

Pastor was so nobly distinguished,—in the ripeness of a good old age—supported by that precious Saviour to whom his life had been so truly given—the dear, genial, kind, old man has passed from mortal sight to the fruition of that glory which is within the veil. Not lost but only gone a little while before !

Blessing God thus for His mercy, and acknowledging with deepest reverence the loss which in His wisdom He has seen fit to inflict, we turn to a more particular review of our work in its several departments.

I.—THE LADIES' SOCIETIES.

Two of these organizations have been in faithful and most efficient operation during the year, a third has been less active for reasons specified in its report.

The Pastor feels that he cannot express too high an appreciation of the devotedness and faithfulness of the *few* ladies thus engaged, and earnestly hopes that should they be spared to work another season in the same labor of

love, they may be cheered by a far larger share of sympathy and *personal co-operation* on the part of the congregation than hitherto they have ever known.

II.—THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

Happy am I to be able to report this, perhaps the most important, certainly the most interesting and remunerative portion of our whole work, as in a flourishing condition.

My whole heart is in it—my personal supervision given to it in all its details, at no little cost of time and effort. Yet here again we come short for lack of that interest and aid which it ought to be the pride, care and joy of every church to extend to its Sunday-schools. We are cramped—I speak advisedly though plainly, our usefulness is curtailed, and has long been so by the failure of the male members of this congregation to manifest that personal appreciation of this blessed work which would lead them to give *themselves to it*.

My dear people—in the name of these precious children, and for the Saviour's sake, I

ask of you three things, not as a favor but as a right.

I. Your prayers that God will bless our efforts and convert our children.

II. Your personal co-operation and interest.

III. Your liberal contributions that we may not be stinted in the work.

III.—BENEVOLENT CONTRIBUTIONS.

The proportion between the aggregate income of the members of a congregation and their aggregate charitable disbursements is generally speaking, a fair gauge of their understanding and appreciation of privilege enjoyed. If Christians really believed the potency and preciousness of the Gospel they profess—the cause of Christ would not be stinted and struggling for lack of means. Permit me to say with all plainness, and to prove what I say, that the charitable disbursements of the church fall very far short of both the opportunity presented, and the ability possessed.

Here is a tabular statement of the charitable receipts :

Communion collections,	\$254 10
Dorcas Society,	42 28
Ladies' Aid Society,	78 50
Benevolent purposes, including the Sunday-School,	879 66
If add the Sunday-School collection,	441 50
	<hr/>
	\$1,696 04

Now \$1,696 is the tithe of \$16,960, so that what we give would be a fair proportion—if the total income of the congregation was only sixteen thousand and nine hundred and sixty dollars, whereas it is at a very low computation, ten times as much, so that we really give but a tenth of the tithe; that is, \$1 instead of \$10 in every hundred, is given to the Lord. Is this wise? is this right? is this justice to ourselves—to the perishing—to *God*—to *Christ*?

Beloved remember—"There is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty."

IV.—BIBLE READER.

Through the kindness of a friend, a Bible reader has been employed in the district surrounding the church, during the past winter.

His labors have been very useful, and we may hope much blessed. He has explored and canvassed thoroughly the neighboring streets and courts, visited the sick, gathered many children into the Sunday-school, and aided by several gentlemen has held three cottage prayer meetings each week.

V.—DEBT.

Our floating debt is \$5,500. It is a bad thing to be in debt, especially so for a church, even though we have not to reproach ourselves with the thought that this debt is the result of a wicked extravagance. A little honest, earnest effort combined with reasonable self-denial and thorough unity, will, my dear people, go very far to reduce, if not actually to obliterate these liabilities in the course of the current year.

You can do it if you will. Will you? Will you join me in the effort to carry out the Di-

vine command—*owe no man anything*—and to set this church upon a foundation of perfect independence? The object is a worthy one, let us try!

Let each one become a collector for this purpose and return, whatever may have been gathered in sealed envelopes, with or without the names of contributors, at a collection to be taken up for this object, Easter Sunday, 1866.

VI.—COMMUNICANTS.

We number about 400 communicants, several have been added from other parishes since the last report. Five have been gathered home to feast with the Redeemed Ones above.

From our own dear flock eighteen professed the faith of *Christ* at a confirmation held on the evening of May 8, 1864, by Right Reverend Bishop Potter, as follows:

Mrs. Robert Cook,	Miss Lydia Algeo,
“ Ellen McKay,	“ Amelia Bisbing,
“ M. A. Stuart,	“ Elizabeth Dobson,

Miss Sarah Howe,	Miss Susan McKay,
" Elizabeth Ker,	" Sophia Quintan,
" Letitia King,	" Martha Reynolds,
" Annie Mansur,	" Florence Simon,
" Jennie McCauley,	" Hannah Speakman.
" Margaret McGarvey,	

It has been deemed unnecessary to repeat the list of Communicants annually, and it is therefore omitted this year.

VII.—CLERICAL ACTS.

These have been as follows :

Baptisms, 41 ; marriages, 13 ; funerals, 18.

The usual reports of Officers and Societies are herewith presented.

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

THE goodness and mercy of our Heavenly Father has brought us again to the close of another year of our existence as a Sunday-school. It has been one of pleasure, and, we trust, of profit. The school is steadily increasing in numbers and efficiency—a marked change in the punctual attendance of both teachers and scholars is manifest, and in the order in which our exercises are conducted.

At our Anniversary, January 15, 1865, we more than doubled our missionary offering for the support of our school in Hayti. Our Pastor preached from our year text, "Jesus called a little child unto him," and he was listened to with marked attention. The children sang with spirit, and were pleased with their books.

Jesus has been pleased to verify the text in taking two of our dear little ones to himself, who that day sat and listened to the word preached. We must not forget to record the removal by death of our venerable and beloved ex-Bible-class teacher, Mr. Joseph Whetham, God has taken him to Glory. May we follow him as he followed Christ.

We number to-day as follows :

FEMALE DEPARTMENT.

	Teachers.	Scholars
Two Bible Classes,	2	39
Intermediate School,	24	117
Infant School,	2	54
Librarian,	1	—
	—	—
	29	210

MALE DEPARTMENT.

	Teachers.	Scholars.
Bible Class,	1	15
Intermediate School,	7	83
Infant School,	—	67
Superintendent,	1	—
Secretary,	1	—
	—	—
	10	165

Total—Teachers and officers, males, .	10
“ “ “ females, .	29
Scholars, males,	165
“ female,	210
	—
	414

JOHN TANGUY,
Assistant Superintendent.

LADIES' SEWING SOCIETY, CHURCH OF THE COVENANT.

THIS society did not resume its usual meetings in the fall, as owing to the high prices of materials it was thought inexpedient to hold the usual public sale; but to distribute circulars, soliciting subscriptions toward the fund, which were liberally responded to.

A sale of the articles remaining on hand was held in the church on the 7th and 8th of December, which resulted very satisfactorily.

It is to be hoped that when another year draws round we may enter upon the work with renewed zeal, and that many more members will come forward and unite with us, that with God's blessing we may continue our labors as successfully as in former years.

MARY NEWELL,
Secretary.

PHILADA., *February 1, 1865.*

CHARLOTTE W. WETHERILL, *Treasurer, in account with
the Sewing Society, Church of the Covenant.*

FROM MARCH, 1864, to MARCH, 1865.

DR.

Balance,	\$13 10
Subscriptions and donations,	27 00
Donations to ground rent,	236 17
Sales,	233 39

\$509 66

CR.

Expenditures,	\$17 66
April 23, paid accounting Warden,	81 35
Dec. 28, " " "	388 00
Balance,	22 65

\$509 66

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

DURING the year we have had an average attendance of seven at our weekly meeting; our membership numbering twenty-two. There have been made or received by donation, the following:—282 garments; 231 handkerchiefs; 21 pairs of stockings; 88 arm-slings; 87 pillows and pads; 52 pillow-cases; 8 pairs of slippers; 1,000 to 1,500 yards of bandage; 4 towels; 53 fans; 19 large bundles of lint, rags, &c.; 12 pounds of soap; 2 pounds tobacco; 83 pounds of groceries; 1 beef tongue; 46 bottles of brandy, wines, &c.; 23 jars of pickles, fruit, &c.; 401 copies of religious and circular papers and magazines; 11 packages of army tracts; 81 testaments; 162 soldier's prayer books.

The above articles have all been sent to the U. S. Christian Commission, with the following exceptions: two donations to the Citizen's Volunteer Hospital; one donation to the Satterlee Hospital; one donation to the sufferers of East Tennessee; and 22 garments still on hand.

Since December 1, in addition to the above, 106

garments have been made from material supplied us by the U. S. Christian Commission.

During the year past, one who ever delighted to aid our work by liberal and frequent donations, has been called to receive his reward; may we all with him hear from our Master those welcome words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

Another year now opens before us; are there not some in the church who will join with us to labor in behalf of our brave soldiers, for Jesus sake?

MRS. M. S. RICHARDS,

Secretary.

EMMA J. NEWELL, *Treasurer, in account with the Ladies' Aid Society, Church of the Covenant.*

FROM FEB. 17, 1864, to FEB. 22, 1865.

DR.		
Subscriptions,	.	\$22 00
Donations,	.	56 50
		<hr/>
		\$78 50
		<hr/>
CR.		
By expenditures,	.	\$73 86
Balance,	.	4 64
		<hr/>
		\$78 50
		<hr/>

REPORT OF THE DORCAS SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF THE COVENANT.

THE operations of the Society during the season, have been as usual. We have had twenty-two meetings, and nine attending members. Sixteen families have received aid, and 92 garments have been distributed. Received donations:—19 pairs of stockings; 6 coats; 5 vests; 4 jackets; 4 dresses; 8 hats; 2 bonnets; 22 half-worn garments.

ANNA H. SEED,
Secretary.

February 16, 1865.

*Annual Report of Treasurer of the Dorcas Society,
Church of the Covenant.*

DR.

March 1, 1864, Balance,	\$12 28
Feb. 7, 1865, Received subscriptions to		
this date,	19 00
" " " Received donations,	11 00
		<hr/>
		\$42 28
		<hr/>

CR.

Feb. 15, 1865, Paid for materials for clothing		
to this date,	\$42 09
" " " Balance in Treasurer's hands,		19
		<hr/>
		\$42 28
		<hr/>

C. A. P. SOWER,
Treasurer.

N. B.—The Report of this Society was omitted from the printed report of Church for last year.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTING WARDEN'S REPORT.

DR.

To balance from March 1, 1864,	.	.	\$1,011 79
Receipts during the year,	.	.	3,768 22
			\$4,780 01

CR.

By cash paid for expenses,	.	.	\$4,123 83
Ground rent,	.	.	850 00
On account, organ,	.	.	500 00
Interest,	.	.	115 00
			\$5,588 83

Balance due accounting Warden, . \$808 82

Amount received on account of the Sinking Fund
for the extinguishment of the church debt \$772 05.

SAMUEL SIMES,
Accounting Warden.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in hand being amount of S. S. offerings not then ap- propriated,	\$210 47	
Offerings of the S. S. Classes at their Anniversary, 1865,	441 50	\$651 97
Collections and donations for the Sun- day-school,		170 90
Collections and contributions for benevo- lent purposes,		708 76
Total receipts,		<u>\$1,531 63</u>

PAYMENTS.

To the American Church Mis- sionary Society,	\$50 00
American Bible Society,	35 83
U. S. Christian Com.,	165 67
Evangelical Knowledge Society,	37 50
Philadelphia Tract and Missionary Society,	26 92
Carried forward,	<u>285 92</u>

Brought forward, . . .	285 92	
To the Divinity Student's Aid		
Society, . . .	75 00	
Special aid of a student, . . .	20 00	
Episcopal Fund of the		
Church, . . .	20 00	
American S. S. Union, . . .	35 57	
Parish Charity, . . .	44 70	
Episcopal Hospital, . . .	35 60	
Disabled Clergyman, . . .	95 95	
Foreign Missions, . . .	66 00	
		<hr/> \$708 76
"S. S. Offerings" for support of a Sunday-		
school in connection with the Ameri-		
can Church Missionary Society, Hayti,		651 97
Library and other books for Sun-		
day-school, . . .	\$70 90	
Anniversary books, paid on act., . . .	100 00	
		<hr/> \$170 90
		<hr/>
		<u>\$1,531 63</u>

ALEXANDER KIRKPATRICK,
Treasurer of Benevolent Fund.

March 1, 1865.

Examined and found correct:

JOHN P. RHOADS, } *Finance Committee.*
 ROBERT REED, }

PHILADA., *March 21, 1865.*

With the earnest wish that this annual exhibit may stimulate us all to greater earnestness, renewed self-denial, and more complete consecration to the blessed Saviour's cause—may lead us to a clearer view of our privileges under the Gospel, and our correspondent responsibility; these pages are committed to the careful and serious attention of an affectionate people,

By their faithful friend and Pastor,

W. T. SABINE.

